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Reserve

NORTH CAROLINA



COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

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No. 115

RALEIGH, N. C.

AUGUST 5, 1952

AGRICULTURAL PRICES AND OTHER CURRENT ITEMS

JAN 12 1953
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CORN HYBRIDS CONTINUE GAIN IN POPULARITY

Hybrid seed corn continued to extend its popularity in North Carolina and according to reports from crop reporters in North Carolina a total of 932,000 acres of the State's 1952 corn crop were planted with hybrid seed. This is 42 percent of the State's total corn acreage planted this year, compared with 38 percent or 834,000 acres in 1951. In 1945 only 3.2 percent of the total, or 71,000 acres, was planted with hybrid seed.

For the Country as a whole, 5 out of every 6 acres planted to corn - 84

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WHEAT PRODUCTION SECOND LARGEST OF RECORD

Based on farmers' July 1 reports on expected wheat yields the outcome of the 1952 crop was not quite up to earlier expectations. A yield of 23.0 bushels per acre is indicated as of July 1 which is 1 bushel below that indicated a month earlier. Of course by July 1 harvest of the crop was sufficiently advanced for farmers to better judge

(Continued on Page 4)

FARM WAGE RATES UP

North Carolina farmers reported that on July 1, they were paying \$4.15 per day for hired labor with house furnished. This is an increase of 35 cents per day over wages paid a year ago. Average hourly wage rate of 57 cents was being paid labor without room and board, compared with 53 cents a year earlier. Daily rates being paid on July 1 of this year were \$4.80 compared with \$4.50 on July 1, 1951, an increase of 7 percent.

Farm wage rates for the United States on July 1 were up from April 1, which is the usual seasonal pattern. As more seasonal labor, which is usually paid at higher rates, is hired rates tend to increase. The increase this month, however, was not quite as much as is usually expected.

For the Nation as a whole farm employment of hired workers was down 1 percent from last year. From May to June of this year there was an increase of a little more than 800,000 in the number of hired farm workers. The largest increase occurred in the South Atlantic States where an increase of 300,000 workers was reported.

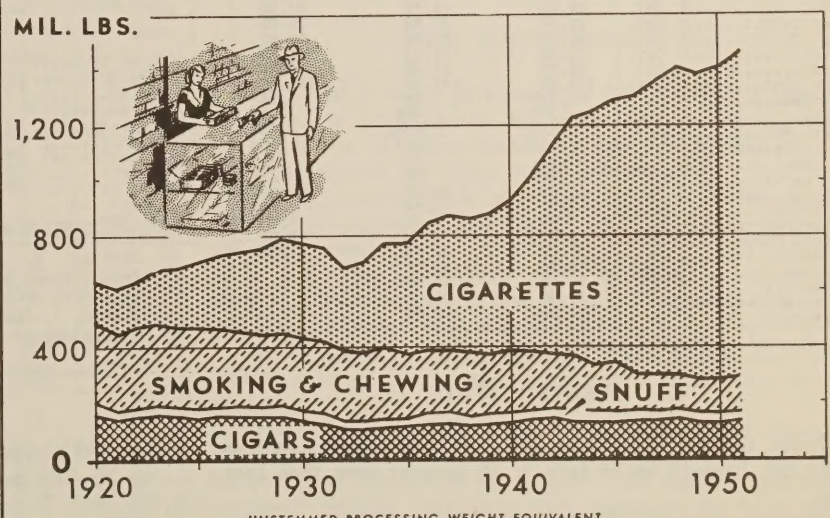
Total farm employment in the U. S. during the last full week in June of this year was 11,020,000 or 3 percent below

the total employed during a comparable period last year and 11 percent below the five year 1945-49 average of 12,414,000.

DAILY AND HOURLY FARM WAGE RATES, N. C. AND SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES COMPARED

AREA AND CLASSIFICATION	JULY 1 1951	JULY 1 1952
NORTH CAROLINA		
PER DAY: WITH HOUSE.....	\$3.80	\$4.15
WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM..	4.50	4.80
PER HOUR:		
WITH HOUSE, NO MEALS..	53	57
WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM..		
SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES		
PER DAY: WITH HOUSE.....	3.70	3.90
WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM..	4.40	4.60
PER HOUR:		
WITH HOUSE, NO MEALS..	54	58
WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM..		

TOBACCO PRODUCTS IN U. S.



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 32738-XX BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

NORTH CAROLINA PRICES RECEIVED INDEX

The "All Farm Products" index of prices received by North Carolina farmers at local markets dropped 5 points during the month ended July 15. The July 15 "All Farm Products" index at 295 compares with 300 in mid-June.

The cotton and cottonseed commodity index at 309 was 1 point below the June 15 index due to a 2 point decline in cotton prices, while cottonseed prices remained unchanged.

The meat animals index decreased from 416 to 400. Hog prices increased 70 cents per hundredweight, while beef cattle, veal calves, sheep and lambs decreased in price.

The poultry index increased from 218 to 242 as the result of higher prices for both chickens and eggs. Chicken prices advanced 2.3 cents per pound and egg prices were up 4.8 cents per dozen from the preceding month.

The July 15 dairy index at 240 was the same as on June 15. Wholesale milk prices advanced slightly during the month, while the price of butterfat and retail milk remained unchanged.

The miscellaneous commodities index at 295 in mid-July was 19 points below the June 15 index of 314. Soybeans, cowpeas, sweetpotatoes, wool and apples decreased in price while Irish potatoes advanced 30 cents per bushel and the price of peanuts remained unchanged.

The ratio of prices received by North Carolina farmers to prices paid by U. S. farmers decreased from 105 on June 15 to 103 on July 15.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS JULY 15, 1952
WITH COMPARISONS

COMMODITY	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA		U. S.
		JUNE 15 1952	JULY 15 1952	JULY 15 1952
- DOLLARS -				
CORN.....	BU.	1.80	1.83	1.73
WHEAT.....	BU.	2.01	1.96	1.98
OATS.....	BU.	.86	.85	.761
BARLEY.....	BU.	1.26	1.25	1.31
RYE.....	BU.	2.30	2.10	1.75
SOYBEANS.....	BU.	2.70	2.60	3.00
COWPEAS.....	BU.	5.10	4.90	4.52
PEANUTS.....	LB.	.12	.12	.103
COTTON.....	LB.	.398	.394	.370
COTTONSEED.....	TON	69.00	69.00	71.00
WOOL.....	LB.	.58	.52	.527
HOGS.....	CWT.	19.00	19.70	20.00
BEEF CATTLE.....	CWT.	23.00	21.50	26.00
VEAL CALVES.....	CWT.	30.30	27.80	28.80
SHEEP.....	CWT.	13.00	11.50	10.10
LAMBS.....	CWT.	28.50	27.40	25.50
MILK COWS.....	HEAD	175.00	172.00	245.00
CHICKENS.....	LB.	.257	.28	.26
EGGS.....	DOZ.	.420	.468	.433
MILK, WHLSE.....	CWT.	5.154/	5.60b/	4.55b/
RETAIL.....	QT.	.207	.207	.205
BUTTER.....	LB.	.58	.58	.718
BUTTERFAT.....	LB.	.31	.32	.22
HAY, ALL BALED.....	TON	2.50	2.80	2.74
POTATOES.....	BU.	3.90	3.10	4.46
SWEET POTATOES.....	BU.	3.00	2.50	3.13
APPLES COMMERCIAL.....	CWT.	16.60	16.60	17.90
LESPEDeza SEED.....	CWT.	15.50	15.50	
KOREAN.....	CWT.	17.50	17.50	
KOBE.....	CWT.	20.00	20.00	
COM. & TENN. 76.....	CWT.	22.00	22.00	
SERICEA.....	CWT.			

a/ Revised b/ Preliminary

SWEETPOTATOES

North Carolina's 1952 sweetpotato crop is estimated at 4,200,000 bushels as of July 1, 12 percent more than last year.

Growers report that 42,000 acres of sweetpotatoes will be harvested this year - 5 percent more than harvested last year.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS
(N. C. PRICES RECEIVED 1909-14 = 100 PERCENT)

COMMODITY	JUNE 15 1952	JULY 15 1952	JULY 15 1951	JULY 15 1950	JULY 15 1949
NORTH CAROLINA INDEX NUMBERS					
ALL FARM PRODUCTS...	300	295	292	251	237
COTTON & COTTONSEED	310	309	320	263	241
GRAINS.....	191	188	180	181	166
MEAT ANIMALS.....	416	400	440	402	356
POULTRY.....	218	242	266	217	252
DAIRY PRODUCTS.....	240	240	239	220	217
TOBACCO.....					
MISCELLANEOUS.....	314	295	231	223	222
RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PAID..	105	103	104	98	97
UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS					
PRICES RECEIVED....	292	295	294	263	249
PRICES PAID.....					
INTEREST & TAXES..	286	286	282	256	244
RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PAID..	102	103	104	103	102

a/ Ratio of N. C. prices received to U. S. prices paid.

U. S. PRICES RECEIVED UP 1 PERCENT

Higher prices received by farmers for eggs, milk, hogs, and commercial truck crops as of July 15 were mainly responsible for a 3 point (1 percent) rise over last month in the Index of Prices Received by Farmers. On the other hand, prices for beef cattle, potatoes, cotton, wheat, calves, and several other farm products were lower.

During the same period, the Index of Prices Paid by Farmers, including Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates remained at 286. A slight rise in the average price of commodities bought for family living was accompanied by a decline in the seasonally adjusted index of farm wage rates.

As a result the Parity Ratio (ratio of Index of Prices received to Index of Prices Paid, including Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates, rose from 102 to 103.

COMPARISON OF U. S. PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS
AND PARITY PRICES

COMMODITY	PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS		PARITY OR COMPARABLE PRICES		AVERAGE PRICES AS PERCENTAGE OF PARITY	
	JUNE 15 1952	JULY 15 1952	JUNE 15 1952	JULY 15 1952	JUNE 15 1952	JULY 15 1952
- DOLLARS -						
COTTON, LB.....	.380	.390	.344	.344	111	108
WHEAT, BU.....	2.06	1.98	2.45	2.45	84	81
CORN, BU.....	1.73	1.73	1.78	1.78	97	97
OATS, BU.....	.781	.761	.944c/	.944c/	83	81
BARLEY, BU.....	1.24	1.31	1.45 c/	1.45 c/	86	90
RYE, BU.....	1.72	1.75	1.68	1.68	-	104
BEEF CATTLE, CWT.	26.70	26.00	21.00	21.00	127	124
HOGS, CWT.....	19.40	20.00	21.40	21.40	91	93
LAMBS, CWT.....	25.80	25.50	23.10	23.10	112	110
CHICKENS, LB.....	.247	.26	.323	.323	76	80
EGGS, DOZ.....	.357	.433	.507c/	.507c/	78d/	88d/
MILK, WHLSE, CWT.	4.36a/	4.55b/	4.80	4.80	102d/	102d/

a/ Revised b/ Preliminary

c/ Transitional parity, 85 percent (80 percent during 1951) of parity price computed under formula in use prior to January 1, 1950

d/ Percentage of seasonally adjusted prices to parity prices

LAMB CROP

The 1952 lamb crop in North Carolina totals 32,000 head - up slightly more than 10 percent from the 1951 crop of 29,000 but 3 percent below the 1941-50 average.

The number of lambs saved per 100 ewes at 107 compares with 100 saved in 1951.

JULY 1 GRAIN STOCKS

CROP	NORTH CAROLINA						UNITED STATES					
	ON-FARM		OFF-FARM ^{1/}		TOTAL STOCKS		ON-FARM		OFF-FARM ^{1/}		TOTAL STOCKS	
	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952
	THOUSAND BUSHELS						THOUSAND BUSHELS					
CORN.....	14,990	15,023	1,259	755	16,249	15,778	801,304	609,210	455,077	369,587	1,256,381	978,797
WHEAT.....	187	526	182	132	369	658	72,638	64,449	323,596	189,446	396,234	253,895
OATS.....	1,285	1,142	50	30	1,335	1,172	257,920	244,646	33,805	37,347	291,725	281,993
RYE.....	5	4	1	*	6	*	1,674	1,596	1,648	725	4,996	3,917
BARLEY.....	62	126	1	*	63	*	40,196	38,130	53,325	34,124	93,521	72,254
SOYBEANS ^{2/}	-	-	6	280	-	-	9,996	5,847	41,930	39,351	51,926	45,198

^{1/} Includes, in addition to stocks in Interior Mills, Elevators and Warehouses and Merchant Mills, commercial stocks reported by Grain Branch, FMA, at terminals. ^{2/} Includes stocks at processing plants as enumerated by the Bureau of the Census.

* Unallocated — to avoid disclosing individual operations

JULY 1 GRAIN STOCKS 2 PERCENT BELOW LAST YEAR

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS JULY 15, 1952

WITH COMPARISONS

FEED PER HUNDREDWEIGHT	NORTH CAROLINA		UNITED STATES	
	JUNE 15 1952	JULY 15 1952	JUNE 15 1952	JULY 15 1952
	DOLLARS			
MIXED DAIRY FEED				
UNDER 29% PROTEIN.				
ALL.....	4.55	4.40	4.48	4.42
16% PROTEIN.....	4.35	4.20	4.36	4.29
18% PROTEIN.....	4.45	4.35	4.50	4.44
20% PROTEIN.....	4.75	4.70	4.63	4.60
29% - OVER.....	5.40	5.60	5.53	5.57
HIGH PROTEIN FEEDS				
LINSEED MEAL.....	-	-	5.20	5.21
SOYBEAN MEAL.....	5.30	5.50	5.62	5.69
COTTONSEED MEAL..	4.65	4.70	5.20	5.23
MEAT SCRAP.....	6.50	6.40	6.40	6.40
GRAIN BY-PRODUCTS				
BRAN.....	4.20	4.15	3.87	3.67
MIDDLINGS.....	4.25	4.25	4.06	3.87
CORN MEAL.....	4.80	4.85	4.36	4.35
CORN GLUTEN.....	-	-	4.22	4.22
POULTRY FEED				
LAYING MASH.....	5.50	5.50	5.29	5.25
SCRATCH GRAIN.....	4.80	4.75	4.69	4.66

CORN HYBRIDS (Continued)

percent of the Nation's 1952 corn acreage - were planted with hybrid seed. The trend toward use of hybrid seed has been rapidly increasing from one acre in a thousand in 1933, to one-half the total in 1943 and three-fourths in 1948, but is now tapering off as the saturation point is reached in important corn producing States. Acceptance of hybrids is nearly 100 percent in the main corn belt.

CORN ACREAGE PLANTED WITH HYBRID SEED, NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES, 1945-1950

YEAR	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
	ALL CORN ACREAGE PLANTED	% PLANTED WITH HYBRID SEED	INDICATED HYBRID CORN ACREAGE	ALL CORN ACREAGE PLANTED	% PLANTED WITH HYBRID SEED	INDICATED HYBRID CORN ACREAGE
	(000)	%	(000)	(000)	%	(000)
1945	2,229	3.2	71	89,261	64.7	57,778
1946	2,193	5.5	121	88,898	68.9	61,271
1947	2,204	14.0	309	85,038	72.5	61,676
1948	2,248	25.0	562	85,522	76.0	64,990
1949	2,238	31.0	694	86,745	78.3	67,906
1950	2,282	34.5	787	82,858	78.0	64,628
1951	2,196	38.0	834	83,866	81.8	68,543
1952	2,218	42.0	932	83,369	84.4	70,366

FEED PRICES DOWN

Mixed dairy feeds purchased by North Carolina farmers decreased in price during the month ending July 15, with the exception of those containing over 29 percent protein which increased 20 cents per hundredweight.

All high protein feeds increased slightly over last month with the exception of meat scrap which declined 10 cents per hundredweight.

In the grain by-products group, middlings remained the same as a month ago while bran dropped 5 cents and corn meal increased 5 cents per hundredweight.

Laying mash at \$5.50 was the same as for June and scratch grain at \$4.75 was down 5 cents from prices a month earlier.

Feed prices throughout the United States went down in most instances. Prices of cottonseed meal, soybean meal, linseed meal and mixed dairy feed (29% protein and over) increased slightly. Declines were registered for most other feed stuffs except corn gluten and meat scrap which held steady.

FARM REPORT

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AUGUST 5, 1952

FARM REPORT

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JUNE MILK PRODUCTION BELOW MAY

Milk production on North Carolina farms during June totaled 144 million pounds. This was 4.0 percent less than total production of 150 million pounds during May. Production during June of this year was also 2 million pounds below June of last year, although milk cows on farms totaled 361,000 this past June compared with 358,000 last June.

Pasture condition declined from 84 percent in May to 71 percent in June. Dry and extremely hot weather during the latter part of June did considerable damage to pastures in most sections of the State. The damage to pastures resulted in restricted grazing and adjustments in the feeding program. These two factors combined with extremely hot weather resulted in lower production per cow than would have been the case otherwise.

SLIGHT DECLINE IN CHICK OUTPUT

Chick output by commercial hatcheries in North Carolina during June totaled 4,673,000 chicks, a slight decline from the 4,846,000 hatched during June 1951, but considerably above the 5-year (1946-50) average of 3,392,000. The decline in hatchings from the previous year was due primarily to smaller demands for commercial broiler chicks. Total hatchings for the first 6 months of 1952 (January-June) was placed at 38,983,000 chicks -- 3,719,000 more than were hatched during the same period of 1951.

WHEAT PRODUCTION (*Continued*)

per acre yields. This closer examination of the production potential of the crop revealed that wheat heads in many instances were not as fully developed as expected.

Total production of wheat for North Carolina this year is estimated at 8,671,000 bushels - second only to the record high of 8,763,000 bushels produced last year. The continued high yield makes possible this high level of production since estimated harvest acres for this year is slightly below last year. Acreage for harvest this year is estimated at 377,000 acres compared with 381,000 last year and the 1941-50 average of 435,000 acres.

For the Nation, a production of 1,249 million bushels is indicated for all wheat as of July 1. This is 26 percent more than the 987 million bushels produced last year and is the third largest crop of record. The record year was 1947 with the 1948 crop being the second largest of record.

APPLE CROP PROMISING

The first estimate of the season places production from North Carolina's commercial apple crop at 1,935,000 bushels. This compares with last year's revised production of 1,269,000 bushels and the 10-year average of 1,090,000 bushels.

Generally orchards are in good shape in the commercial mountain areas and a bountiful crop is in prospect. However, hail has caused rather serious damage in some localities. Also, scab has been rather heavy this season.

MORE CHICKENS RAISED ON N. C. FARMS IN 1952

Preliminary estimates indicate 18,981,000 young chickens raised on North Carolina farms in 1952. This is 4 percent more than the 18,251,000 raised in 1951, but 14 percent less than the 10-year (1941-50) average number raised of 22,112,000. Commercial broiler chicks are not included in the estimates of chickens raised on farms.

For the Nation, young chicks raised on farms in 1952 are estimated at 617,197,000 - 7 percent fewer than were raised in 1951 and 20 percent below the 1941-50 average. Numbers of chickens raised are below those of last year in all but 13 States. Decreases from last year were 12 percent in the West North Central, 8 percent in the South Central and the West, 7 percent in the East North Central and 1 percent in the North Atlantic and South Atlantic States.

The number of young chickens raised this year and the number of layers on hand June 1 indicate a smaller laying flock on January 1, 1953 than a year earlier. Although there were 2 percent more layers on farms June 1, a 7 percent smaller crop of chickens raised this year will not provide enough young pullets to offset the normal culling this fall.

On February 1 farmers reported their intentions to buy 10 percent fewer baby chicks for flock replacements this year than last. This reflected the lowest egg-feed price relationship in 29 years of record. The price relationship continued poor throughout the hatching season so there was little incentive to depart materially from the February intentions.